141. Malaysia
142. Indonesia
143. Fiji
144. Brunei Darussalam
145. Cambodia
146. Lao PDR
147. Pakistan
148. Iran
149. Afghanistan

Similar messages have also been received from the following:

1. Palestine
2. The League of Arab States
3. European Union

Statement—III

Plan directing against Mumbai attacks

The Government remains fully committed to combat the menace of terrorism. The Policy of the Government is to counter the challenge posed by these menace by way of a multi-pronged strategy. In pursuance of this strategy, the Government has taken various measures on political, security and development fronts. On the security front, the counter terrorism measures include effective border management to check infiltration across the borders, deployment of central forces to aid the State Police Forces in areas prone to terrorist violence, heightened vigil and security arrangements in vulnerable areas and sharing capabilities, particularly at the cutting edge level, augmentation and modernization of police forces and raising of India Reserve Battalions, ensuring improved technology, weaponry and equipment with the Central and State Police Forces and Steps taken to achieve bilateral and multilateral cooperation to deal with the global imperatives of terrorism. On the development activities in the areas affected by terrorism/extremism.

Apart from the above, the recent measures taken by the Government, inter-alia, include setting up Regional Centres of NSG, setting up of 20 Counter Insurgency and Anti-Terrorism Schools in different parts of the country; constitution of National Investigation Agency; enactment of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2008 to reinforce the punitive provisions to combat terrorism; enactment of National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, notification of CISF (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009 to enable the CISF to provide security to establishments/undertakings in the joint and private sectors; further streamlining of sharing of intelligence amongst various agencies and also with the State Governments, as well as strengthening of Coastal Security.

Problems of NRIs

497. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NRIs are facing many problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to help NRIs when they die outside the country especially the people of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The requisite details are being collected and would be laid on the table of the House.

Indians languishing in jails

498. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian nationals are languishing in jails in Gulf countries who are victims of recruitment agencies in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported;

(c) the details of the steps taken for the release of these people; and

(d) the details of steps taken against the fraud agencies and to ensure the safety of the emigrants?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) As reported by the Indian Missions in the Gulf countries, cases of Indian nationals who are victims of Recruitment Agencies being in jails have not come to their notice.

Computerisation of panchayats

499. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recommended for computerization of around 2.5 lakh panchayats during the next three years;

(b) if so, the details of such panchayats and the cost at which it would be implemented, State-wise; and

(c) by when the rural people can expect to avail of computer facility?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Government has proposed a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for e-governance in Panchayati Raj institutions (e-PRI). The proposed scheme will bring about improved service delivery through the Panchayats and enable greater accountability of government to the community through use of ICT. Department of Information Technology has included e-Governance for Panchayats as a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under National e-Governance Programme (NeGP).

Keeping in view the strategic importance of computerization at the Gram Panchayat level, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj had constituted an Expert Group in June 2007 under the Chairmanship of Director General, National Informatics Centre to assess the current and future Information Technology (IT) programmes of the Ministry, to recommend on the most cost-effective technologies for reaching IT to the Gram Panchayats, the use of IT for effectively building capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions through distance learning; and the cost